

### **REMARKS**

Applicants take this opportunity to add new claim 10, the content of which is supported by the Applicants' specification, page 4, lines 7-10.

Claims 3-6 have been allowed, but claims 1, 2 and 7-9 are rejected over Miyashita et al. in view of Applicants' disclosure concerning static mixers, Hermanson et al. and Nakagaki. For the reasons that follow, Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds for rejecting claims 1, 2 and 7-9.


Miyashita et al., now cited in replacement of formerly cited Nishimoto et al., has been carefully considered, but Applicants point out that previously amended claim 1 recites that "said re-circulation loop being separate from the feeding line and taking ink from the reservoir and returning it in the same reservoir again, while continuously mixing the ink through a re-circulation." On page 3 of the Office Action mailed March 24, 2004, the Examiner agrees that "Miyashita et al. fails to teach the mixing means, a means of heating the ink, stirring means consist of a magnetic stirring and pigment ink." This statement is, however, not complete. Miyashita et al. still fails to teach "said re-circulation loop ... taking ink from the reservoir and returning it in the same reservoir again, while continuously mixing the ink through a re-circulation." With reference to Fig. 4 of Miyashita et al. (reported on page 4 of the Office Action mailed March 24, 2004), Miyashita's specification, col. 7, lines 27-33, clearly teaches that the tube connection from reservoir 1310 to subtank 1320 through pump 340 and return tube to main tank 1310 do not form a re-circulation loop that continuously mixes the ink. On the contrary, pump 340 is clearly described as functioning intermittently for merely keeping the ink level in sub tank 1320 at a constant level. In addition thereto, element 300, shown in Fig. 4, is nowhere

described as a stirring means. For one skilled in the art, it would rather be interpreted as a driving means for flowing the ink back to the printhead.

As explained in the Applicants' specification, the gist of the present invention is that ink containing high density pigment can be securely printed if stirring and mixing means are provided as taught in the claims, and in particular claim 1, for effectively avoiding settling out of the high density pigment. This is neither taught nor suggested by Miyashita et al.

For these foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request re-consideration of the present application in light of the foregoing remarks, and allowance of claims 1-9, and new claim 10, over all the prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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